

Theresa Sullivan Barger
8 Pond Road
Canton, CT 09019

March 2, 2009

Environment Committee
Connecticut General Assembly

Dear Legislators,

I'm writing to ask your support for HB 6572 and SB 919, urging you to enact policies that replace known and suspected toxins with safer alternatives.

I'm a mother of three growing children and a member of the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network.

Given the fact that many researchers are worried that exposure to Bisphenol A (BPA) is harmful to the health of developing fetuses and children, I implore you to ban its use in products marketed for children and in food and beverage cans sold in the state.

The average citizen counts on elected officials to protect public health. Since there are so many studies suggesting the dangers of BPA and there are already safe food storage alternatives, I urge your support for HB 6572.

My husband and I try very hard to feed our children a healthy, well-balanced diet and try to buy organic food when we can. But it's difficult for a busy family to avoid buying canned tuna, canned soup and canned foods used in cooking.

Canada and Europe have already moved toward banning BPA. Maine and Washington have passed broad reforms similar to the Safer Alternatives bill, and Connecticut is one of 13 states considering BPA phase outs.

Please use your position to ban a substance that risks the health of my children and all the state's children. We're counting on you.

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I'd also like to urge your support of SB 919, An Act Phasing Out the Use of Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDEs).

- PBDEs are industrial toxic chemicals used to retard flames in consumer electronic plastics, furniture and mattresses. They retard combustion, but, once burning, are extremely toxic.
- Brominated fire retardants are associated with numerous public health concerns, including cancer, birth defects, thyroid disruption, hearing deficits, learning disorders such as ADHD and mental retardation.
- Alternative solutions exist. Connecticut can achieve the same fire safety benefits without the use of brominated flame retardants.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Theresa Sullivan Barger